

BAY AREA RURAL TRANSIT

OFFICIAL BART COMMISSION MINUTES

September 21, 2023, at 4:00 PM
BART Office Center

A. CALL TO ORDER

A General Meeting of the Bay Area Rural Transit Board was held on Thursday, September 21st, 2023, by Remote/Zoom and in person at the Bay Area Rural Transit office. Chairperson Carl Doersch called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Attendance:

Roll Call: Present: Doersch, Niemis, Oswald, Pufall, Trimner. 5

Absent: Beagan, Benton, Berlin, Lawyer. 4

Excused: 0

B. Adoption of Agenda

Motion was made by Tom Niemis and seconded by Richard Pufall to approve the agenda. Motion Carried.

C. Approval of Minutes

Motion was made by Tom Niemis and seconded by Richard Pufall to approve the August 17, 2023, Minutes with the addition of Oswald to the Absent section of roll call. Motion Carried

D. Public Comments

Kelly Westlund in attendance, No public comments.

E. Partner Request

Kelly Westlund presented to the BART board a partnership with the Chequamegon Bay Regional Housing Coalition which is reaching out to reaffirm partnerships with existing partners and adding new partners. Motion was made by Tom Niemis and seconded by Richard Pufall to approve the partnership with Chequamegon Bay Regional Housing Coalition. Motion Carried.

F. Managers' Report

1. DVR Exemplary Employer Award

Pat Daoust informed the board that BART has been awarded the Exemplary Employer Award from DVR with an award presentation set for 10/12/23 at 1:30pm.

2. Electric Buses

Pat Daoust updated the board that the electric buses are still on pace to complete testing in 2023 with buses being obtained in the first quarter of 2024. An EV Van has been ordered but no timeline

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has been set for delivery. EV chargers for Price County are ordered and currently in California awaiting delivery. A discussion followed.

3. EV Charger

Pat Daoust informed the board the EV charger for the Price County facility is ordered and infrastructure is being built. A discussion followed.

4. Staffing

Pat Daoust stated BART is currently sitting good for staff going into the winter season with being nearly full staff. A part-time Dispatcher position has been filled by an employee that left last year. A discussion followed.

5. Price County Facility

Pat Daoust informed the board that the building is currently being framed in, along with doors and windows being added. Xcel Energy adding power to the building is currently on hold due to backordered electrical cabinets with an estimated date of 10/19/23. A discussion followed.

G. Projects Needing Attention

None

F. Finances

Pat Daoust went over the 2023 financial reports. Ridership continues to increase. BART is underbudget overall but over budget on services, building/grounds line items. An expected 17% increase for health insurance is set for 2024. Motion was made by Tom Niemis seconded by Jeremy Oswald to accept and place on file the 2023 financial reports. Motion Carried

G. Reports, Comments, Questions

Carl Doersch informed Pat Daoust that he has taken the bus several times recently and noticed a driver was tailgating another vehicle to the point where it felt unsafe. Carl Doersch also mentioned that the drivers overall are very friendly and courteous. A discussion followed.

H. Adjourn

There being no further business, the motion to adjourn was made by Tom Niemis and seconded by Richard Pufall. Motion carried. BART Board Adjourned at 4:50 p.m.